
DIGEST

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Jane Smith

HB No. 559

Abstract: Establishes the La. Initiative for Veteran and Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Entrepreneurships (The Veteran Initiative).

Proposed law establishes the La. Initiative for Veteran and Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Entrepreneurships (The Veteran Initiative) and provides for legislative intent and definitions.

Proposed law provides for certification of certain veteran and service-connected disabled veteran-owned small entrepreneurship by the secretary of the Dept. of Economic Development (DED) as "veteran and service-connected disabled veteran-owned small entrepreneurship". Establishes criteria for certification (R.S. 39:2176(A)(1)-(4)).

Proposed law authorizes DED to develop the application process for entities seeking certification through APA. DED shall maintain an Internet listing of all veteran and service-connected disabled veteran-owned small entrepreneurship, to be updated monthly and report annually to the commissioner of administration with respect to the graduation rates for businesses which grew to exceed the eligibility requirements for certification in the last year.

Proposed law requires that DED shall consult with the La. Dept. of Veterans Affairs and any other state agency as necessary to carry out the provisions of proposed law.

Proposed law requires the commissioner of administration to set annual goals for the use of veteran and service-connected disabled veteran-owned small entrepreneurship in state procurements and public contracting. The level and number of goals shall be at the discretion of the commissioner.

Proposed law (R.S. 39:2173) provides for methods of source selection which may be utilized by state agencies for contracting with veteran and service-connected disabled veteran-owned small entrepreneurship.

Proposed law (R.S. 39:2177(A)-(C)) requires the commissioner to establish policies for and assist agencies with implementation of the initiative, including standard contract clauses for use by agencies in requests for proposals, advertisements, and solicitations for bids. Requires that the commissioner shall also provide periodic training for state employees to acquaint them with the requirements of the initiative.

Proposed law (R.S. 39:2177(D)) requires the commissioner to conduct a training program to acquaint veteran and service-connected disabled veteran-owned small entrepreneurship with state procurement and public contract proposal and bidding practices. The commissioner shall secure the assistance of staff from La. Dept. of Veterans Affairs for veteran-specific information and data and either DOTD, DNR, or DEQ for the purpose of providing practical advice to small veteran and service-connected disabled veteran-owned entrepreneurship relative to procurements and public contracts governed by such law.

Proposed law (R.S. 39:2177(E)) requires the commissioner to annually prepare a report on the progress of the initiative in the most recently ended fiscal year, to be made available to the legislature. The commissioner's report shall include information on contract volume and dollar values and on graduation rates of veteran and service-connected disabled veteran-owned small entrepreneurship.

Proposed law requires that the undersecretary or business manager of each agency serve as its initiative coordinator, who shall be responsible for carrying out the requirements of the agency with respect to the initiative.

Proposed law provides that the secretary of the La. Dept. of Veterans Affairs shall assist Louisiana's veterans and service-connected disabled veterans in procuring the state and federal contracts and shall establish policies and procedures necessary for implementing and publicizing information regarding the Veterans Initiative.

Proposed law provides that the La. Dept. of Veterans Affairs shall collaborate with local, state, federal, and nongovernmental agencies and organizations necessary to implement and carry out the program.

(Adds R.S. 39:2171-2179)